



# Historical Fire Data - BLM Alaska: 1959 - 1985

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Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and some of its predecessor agencies have been responsible for organized fire control in Alaska since either the mid-1920's or late 1930's, depending on one's definition of "organized fire control." Certainly the formation of the Alaskan Fire Control Service (AFCS) on July 1, 1939 represents the first real organizational effort devoted to fire control. From the records we know that the AFCS appropriated budget was "--for the 1940 fiscal year of \$37,500 for the purpose of preventing and suppressing fires upon the Public Domain of Alaska."(1) As the report points out this appropriation was reduced to \$27,000 for the 1941 fiscal year. This appears to be one of the earliest records of fire control costs in Alaska.

As to the magnitude of the early fire control problem, one can only take the estimates of visitors and residents as to the nature of the size or frequency of fires. Pyne reports that, after a 1915 tour of Alaska, Henry Graves observed, "--the interior forests of Alaska are being destroyed at an appalling rate by forest fires."(2) One estimate has been made that 80% of Alaska has been burned at least once. This figure is difficult to credit; however, the previously mentioned report to the GLO Commissioner states that the burned area in the 1940 fire season was 4,433,820 acres. Most of these fires were described as "inaccessible to AFCS".(1) The capabilities of the Fire Service of the time can be judged by the fact that they successfully attacked 47 fires with a total burned area of 5,781 acres during the same 1940 fire season. The 4,000,000 acres estimate must certainly be suspect, since as the report notes the "--fires were reported to the Alaskan Fire Control Service by airplane pilots residents, miners, and others." With some of this early data as a background this paper will present and discuss what appears to be some relatively sound data from the years 1959 to 1985.

Explanation of Table 1

The basis for our discussions will be Table 1. In order to understand the data, the reader will need information on how the data is recorded. For instance "Year" represents calendar year, i.e., from January 1 to December 31, and the values for "Number Fires" and "Acres Burned" are for the same period. On the other hand "Appropri. Funds" and "Emergency Funds" are by fiscal year. Worse, the fiscal years are not always the same. In the years shown with asterisks, the fiscal year was from July 1-June 30, while the year shown with the "\*" symbol has the so-called transition quarter, with a fiscal year from July 1 to September 30. Finally, the years from 1977 on represent the current October 1-September 30 fiscal year system.

.....  
(1) Annual Fire Report of the Alaskan Fire Control Service to the Commissioner, General Land Office for the 1940 Fire Season, December 23, 1940.

(2) Pyne, Stephen J., Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire, pp. 497, 1982, Princeton University Press between 1898 and 1939.

ALASKA FIRE STATISTICS 1959-1985

YEAR	NUMBER FIRES	ACRES BURNED	APPROPR. FUNDS-\$	EMERGENCY FUNDS-\$	SOURCE	ST. OF AK CONT. TO PRESUPP.-\$	NET STATE SUPPRESS. REIMBURS.-\$
1959*	320	596574	644981	1757032	TABLE 115 PLS 2/		
1960*	238	87180	636374	1479073	TABLE 113 PLS		
1961*	117	5100	858406	946998	TABLE 107 PLS	18000	-18000
1962*	102	38975	946580	155231	TABLE 106 PLS	31850	-31850
1963*	194	16290	986700	998139	1965 AUDIT REPORT	73550	-73550
1964*	164	3430	1150500	616669	TABLE 111 PLS	84773	-29842
1965*	148	7093	1062000	379514	TABLE 109 PLS	104650	-77295
1966*	256	672765	901756	640775	TABLE 106 PLS	142390	-271557
1967*	207	109005	753000	4959000	TABLE 107 PLS	148500	-117374
1968*	442	1013301	906000	4020865	ADP PRINTOUT	156000	-1591568
1969*	685 1/	4231820	795000	9922571	ADP PRINTOUT	160000	-3344925
1970*	659 1/	113486	797506	21301901	ADP PRINTOUT	160000	-1596604
1971*	586 1/	1069108	1159296	9049225	ADP PRINTOUT	160000	-1504955
1972*	780 1/	966247	1159288	13443403	6/72 PRINTOUT	160000	-172000
1973*	442 1/	59816	1428362	17221726	6/73 PRINTOUT	150720	-239469
1974*	869 1/	662960	1520806	10776956	6/74 PRINTOUT	333676	-479945
1975*	411 1/	127845	1689758	14676731	6/75 PRINTOUT	332721	-175542
1976#	622 1/	69119	1682859	17162779	7/76 PRINTOUT	773635	-371111
1977	681 1/	2295808	1520935	27774834	6/77 PRINTOUT	419459	-395893
1978	356 1/	7757	1374217	16474901	11/78 DSC ESTIMATE	254963	-348245
1979	337 1/	389925	1762008	19357062	9/30/79 MICROFICHE	2219	-799290
1980	180 1/	129892	1537700	20727106	9/30/80 MICROFICHE	58688	-94329
1981	322 1/	536217	1443704	20180100	9/30/81 MICROFICHE	624940	1934319
1982	283 1/	70789	1281900	20370487	9/30/82 MICROFICHE	584431	-637720
1983	451 1/	98164	1071500	19803143	9/30/83 MICROFICHE	717562	-2862863
1984	455 1/	115871	1009500	15993316	9/30/84 MICROFICHE	533033	-269635
1985	261 1/	372230	954081	12230168	9/30/85 MICROFICHE	410000	2011092
TOTAL	10568	13866767	31034717	302419705		6595760	-11558151

\* Fiscal Year July 1-June 30

# Transition Year

1/ Number of fires includes false alarms

2/ Public Land Statistics

Table 1

The disparity between the calendar year used to designate the number of fires and acres burned and the fiscal year designation for emergency and appropriated funds is best illustrated by the 1969 and 1970 entries. In 1969, there were 685 fires, 4,231,820 acres burned, and emergency expenditures of \$9,922,571. In 1970 there were 670 fires with only 113,486 acres burned, but total emergency expenditures were a whopping \$21,301,901. The reason for this difference is found in the fact that the fiscal year ended on July 1, 1969. The 1969 fire season, a very severe one, included the most expensive fire the BLM has ever fought, the Kenai or Swanson River Fire. However, it must be remembered that this fire started in early August of 1969, after the close of the 1969 fiscal year. Thus, all of the costs of the Kenai fire (1969 fire season) is shown in 1970. Because the fire season usually becomes active during early to mid-June, it can be assumed that most emergency expenditures will not show up until the next fiscal year, i.e., the 1969 fire season expenditures will nearly all be in the 1970 fiscal year data. Figure 1 shows how the acreage burned in 1969 affected the 1970 fiscal year expenditures. The implication is that in order to establish relationships between numbers of fires, acres burned, and emergency expenditures, it is necessary to slide the emergency expenditures upward one year, up to and including the 1975 fire season.

The 1976 fire season and the expenditures for that year are complicated by the fact that the fiscal year contains the previously discussed transition quarter. This year (FY-76) would have the expenditures from the 1975 fire and the 1976 fire seasons. Since neither of these seasons was particularly severe in terms of acreage burned, the emergency expenditures do not appear to be significantly larger than usual. In 1977, the current fiscal year system was adapted. Since the fire season in Alaska ends before the end of the fiscal year, most costs appear in the same year as they were expended. In 1977, a big fire year with over 2,000,000 acres burned, expenditures amounted to over \$27,000,000. This is a much closer correlation than occurred during the 1959-75 period. It must be recognized that not all fire expenditures are reported before the end of the fiscal year in September, but certainly the bulk of them are included so that fiscal data closely correlates to fire statistics for the years 1977-85.

The column labeled "Appropri. Funds" represents the current 4360 subactivity and the previous 1270 category. While not large in comparison to the emergency expenditures, these funds were, and are still important in setting the base program, i.e., the number of year round people that are available to do the fire-related work outside of the fire season as well as during the active fire season.

The "Emergency Funds" column has two separate components. The first of these is emergency presuppression funding, previously 1510 and now designated as 4610. The second part of the emergency funds is the actual fire suppression expenditures, once 1511, and now coded as 4620. Together, these two authorities represent the bulk of the expenditures for fire control in Alaska. The interrelationships of these two aspects of fire funding will not be examined in this paper. They will simply be treated as a single item.



DOLLARS  
EXPENDED  
(In millions)

FY-CY UNCORRECTED

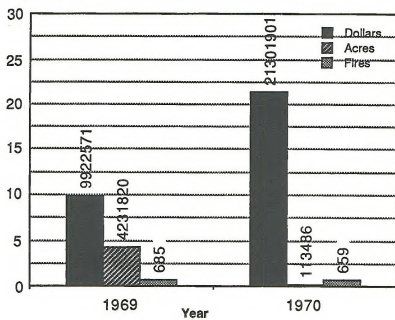


Figure 1



Finally, certain deficiencies in Table 1 need to be noted. From 1959 through the 1970's, the BLM enjoyed a virtual monopoly on wildland fire fighting in Alaska. As a result data for numbers of fires, acres burned, and funds expended, represent the total fire situation in interior Alaska.

As the State of Alaska assumed a greater role in fire fighting, the BLM reports become less representative of the total Alaska picture. The Bureau's annual reports are only for those fires for which the BLM was responsible. State fires, acreages, and expenditures are not a part of this report. From 1977 to 1984, one would have to add 372,118 acres to the Federal total to include the acres burned on lands protected by the State of Alaska and not reported by BLM. In addition, there are more fires and more expenditures in the same period than are shown on Table 1.

In summary, the earlier year of Table 1 represent a better picture of the total fire situation in Alaska than do the later years.

The individual entries on Table 1 will now be discussed.

### Numbers of Fires

The source of this information is "1985 Fire Statistics" by the BLM's Alaska Fire Service. Their summary of the numbers of fires and acreages burned includes three years of data not shown in Table 1 because of the lack of fiscal data for that period. The data for those years is shown below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Numbers of Fires</u>	<u>Acres Burned</u>
1956	226	476,593
1957	391	5,049,661
1958	278	317,215

In reviewing the numbers of fires, no pattern seems obvious unless it is the pattern of variability. Fire numbers range from a low of 102 in 1962 to a high of 869 in 1974. It appears that in the early years (1956-1967) fire numbers are rather low compared to the 1968-1985 numbers. These numbers may be somewhat misleading since lack of detection and reporting may have led to underestimating fire numbers in the early years, while enhanced detection of very small fires and the inclusion of false alarms have led to substantially higher numbers of fires in the later years.

### Acreage Burned

The acreage burned column is illustrated in Figure 2. The first impression given is one of extreme variability with no clear pattern. However, peaks appear to occur about 10 years apart if the 1957 year is included.

Another pattern which develops if acreages are sorted by decades is shown below:

<u>Acres Burned by Decade</u>			
<u>1956-59</u>	<u>1960-69</u>	<u>1970-79</u>	<u>1980-85</u>
6,440,043	6,184,959	5,762,071	1,323,163

Note that there is relatively little difference between the decades in the acreage burned. Obviously, the first six years of the 1950's are totally missing and it is not certain just how many more acres were burned in those years. Since six years are already gone in the 1980's and the acreage burned for that period remains substantially below the previous decades, it can be speculated that the years 1986-89 should see some large fire seasons.

As a measure of variability, the lowest acreage burned between 1959 and 1985 was a miniscule 3,430 acres in 1964, with the largest being over 4,200,000 acres in 1969. One item worth noting is that in the 27 years included in this report 47% of the acreage burned in just 2 years, 1969 and 1977. Clearly the big fire years are the critical factor in total acreages burned over extended periods of time.

ACRES  
BURNED  
(in millions)

## ACRES BURNED BY YEAR

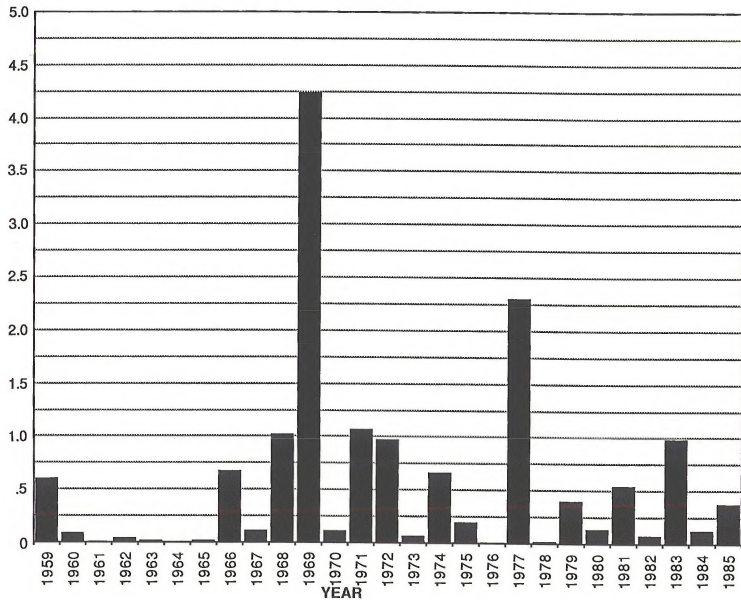
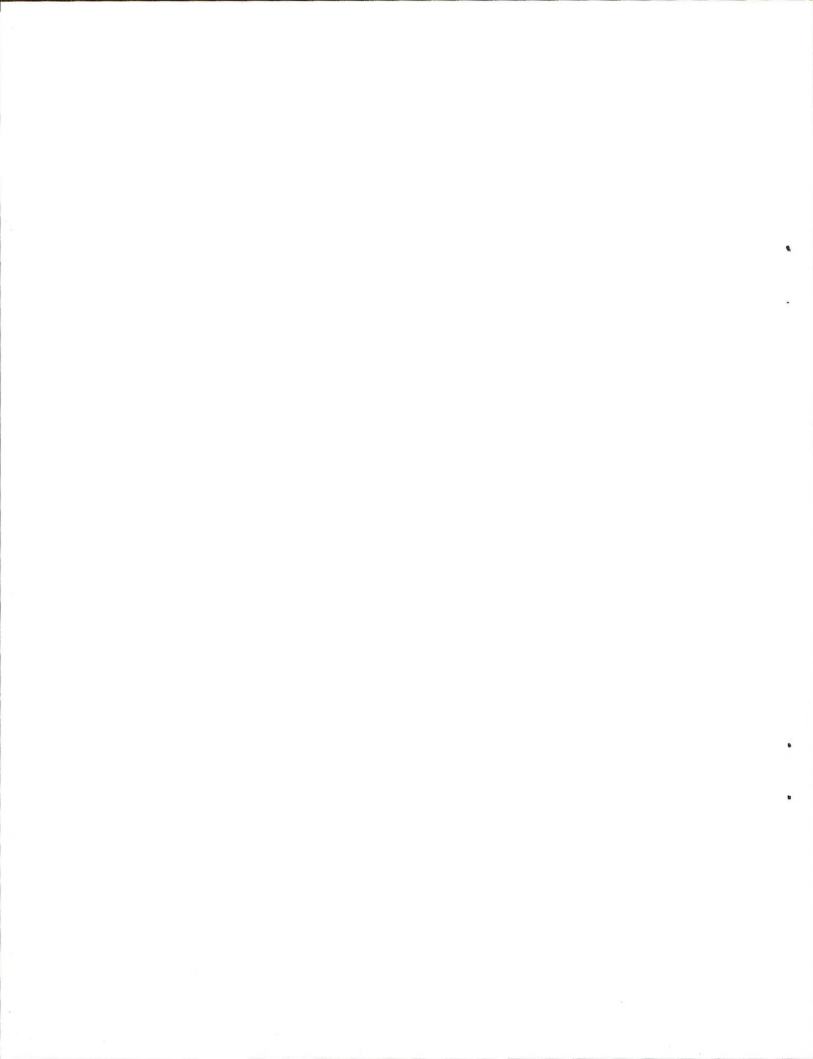


FIGURE 2



### Appropriated Funds

The importance of the appropriated funds has been previously discussed. BLM's appropriated dollars show an irregular upward trend from 1959 to the peak year in 1979. There has been a gradual erosion of this funding since then to the point where the 1985 allocation is the lowest since 1970. Appropriated funds tended to follow the pattern of acreages burned, although at a much less direct ratio than do the emergency funds. An increase in appropriated funds can be noted 2 years after both the 1969 and 1977 fire seasons. It is fairly certain that this also occurred after the 1957 fire season. On the other hand, the low acreages burned during the 1960-65 period led to reductions in appropriated funding until the effects of the 1969 season impacted the allocation of the appropriated funds.

Note that while funds were increased during 1959-1979, the BLM's land base in Alaska was decreasing. The Statehood Act and other legislation granted the State of Alaska 104,500,000 acres; the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act of 1971 granted the Native corporations 44,000,000 acres and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act transferred almost 100,000,000 acres to other agencies. In spite of this change, the BLM has remained the single dominant force in fire control in interior Alaska, with the State of Alaska assuming a growing role. The appropriated funds are graphed in Figure 3.

### Emergency Funds

It was previously noted how emergency expenditures do not appear to relate to the severity of the fire season, particularly prior to 1975, and that it was necessary to "slide up" the Emergency Funds column by one year. These changes are shown in Table 2.

In Figure 4 the raw data for 1969 and 1970 have been compared with the corrected data for the same years. Obviously after the fiscal years have been moved back one year, the amount of emergency expenditures correlates much more closely with the fire activity as expressed by the acreages burned.

The emergency expenditures are shown in Figure 5. This data is presented as it appears in Table 1, and no adjustments for the difference between fiscal year and calendar year have been made. As expected, the emergency expenditures exhibit a great deal of variability. One exception to this statement appears in the years 1979-83 when emergency expenditures were almost static. Since this occurred after the change of fiscal years, acreages burned and fiscal expenditures should match quite well. A review of the acres burned between 1979-83 indicates that more variability in expenditures would be expected than had actually occurred. During 1984 and 1985 seasons emergency expenditures began to experience a decline from their 1979-83 levels. However, this decline does not clearly correlate to a decrease in acreage burned for those years. Finally \$100,437,898 of the total emergency expenditures of \$302,419,705 over 27 years, was spent in the 1979-83 period, or almost 1/3 of the total was spent in less than 1/5 of the time.

ACREAGE BURNED/EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES  
CORRECTED FOR FISCAL YEAR

YEAR	NUMBER FIRES	ACRES BURNED	EMERGENCY FUNDS--\$
1959	320	596574	1479073
1960	238	87180	946998
1961	117	5100	155231
1962	102	38975	998139
1963	194	16290	616669
1964	164	3430	379514
1965	148	7093	640775
1966	256	672765	4959000
1967	207	109005	4020865
1968	442	1013301	9922571
1969	685	1/ 4231820	21301901
1970	659	1/ 113486	9049225
1971	586	1/ 1069108	13443403
1972	780	1/ 966247	17221726
1973	442	1/ 59816	10776956
1974	869	1/ 662960	14676731
1975-76	1033	1/ 196964	17162859
1977	681	1/ 2295808	27774834
1978	356	1/ 7757	16474901
1979	337	1/ 389925	19357062
1980	180	1/ 129892	20727106
1981	322	1/ 536217	20180100
1982	283	1/ 70789	20370487
1983	451	1/ 98164	19803143
1984	455	1/ 115871	15993316
1985	261	1/ 372230	12230168
TOTAL	10568	13866767	279360852

Table 2

DOLLARS  
EXPENDED  
(in millions)

## APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES-FY

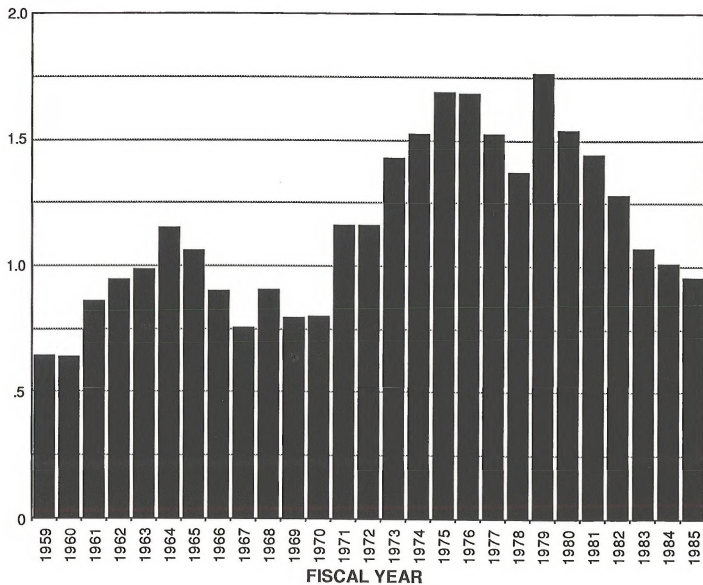
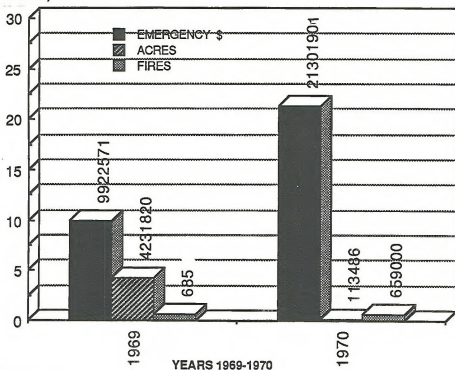


FIGURE 3



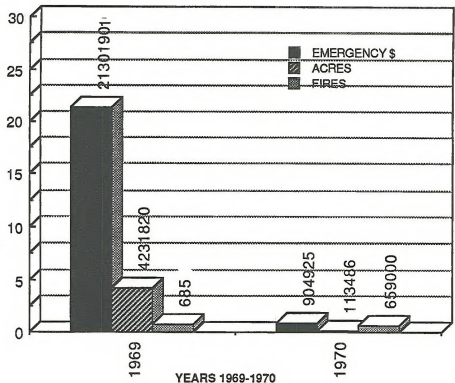
EMERGENCY  
DOLLARS  
(In millions)

### FY-CY UNCORRECTED



EMERGENCY  
DOLLARS  
(In millions)

### FY-CY CORRECTED

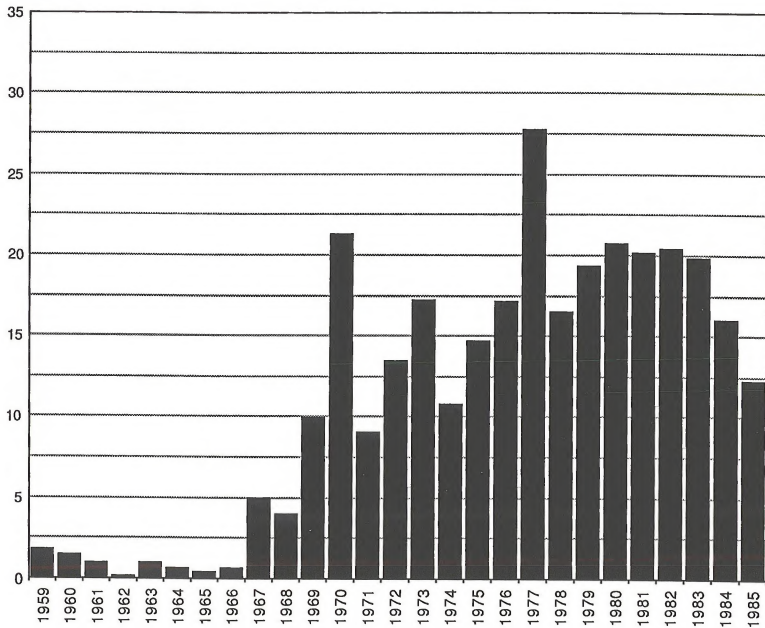


Effect of Correcting Variations  
for  
CY-FY Differences

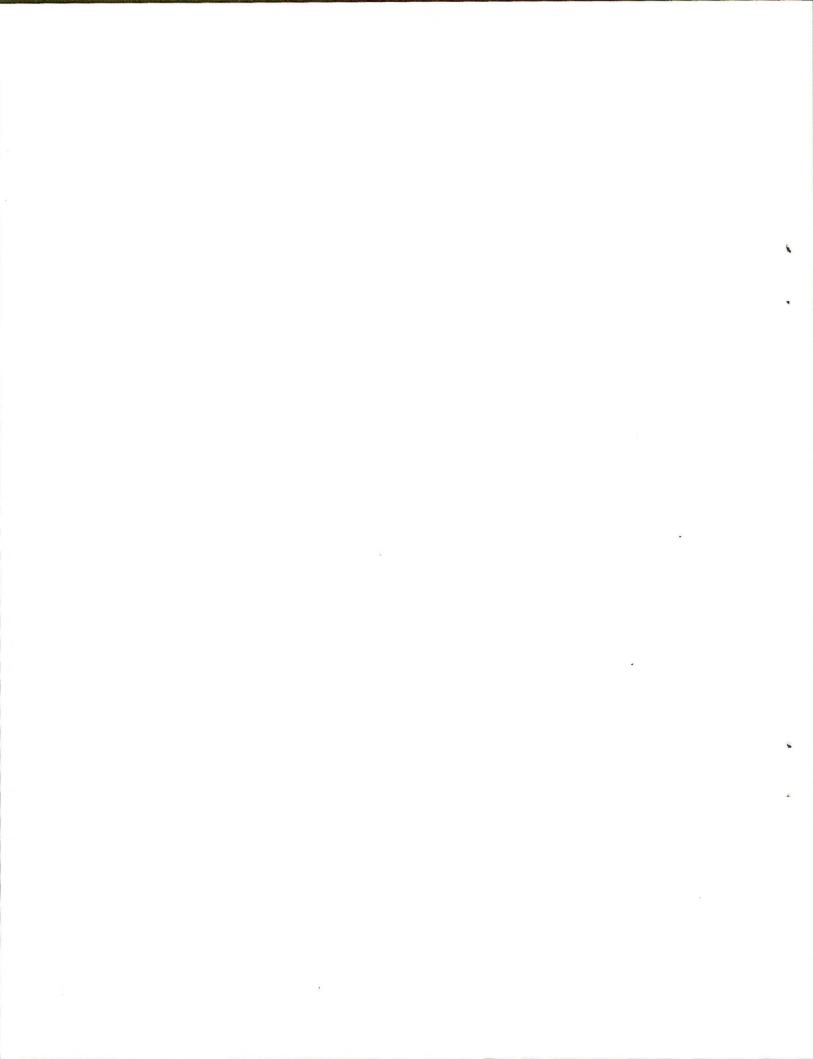
FIGURE 4

DOLLARS  
EXPENDED  
(In millions)

## EMERGENCY FUNDS-CY



YEAR  
FIGURE 5



State of Alaska - Presuppression

The column "St. of AK. Cont. to Presup.-\$" in Table 1 is the State of Alaska's contribution to presuppression expenditures by the Bureau of Land Management on State owned lands or lands for which the State has fire protection responsibility. These funds can be expended just like the appropriated funds previously discussed. As the figures in Table 1 indicate the State contributions started small, consistent with a small amount of non-federal land in the early days of statehood. As the State responsibilities grew, so did the State contributions, until they then peaked in 1976. After that year, the State of Alaska assumed increasing responsibility for their own lands and began to decrease their contributions to the BLM. This decrease has been very erratic, with lows of almost nothing (1979) to high's approaching the 1976 figure.

The contributed presuppression funds represent a significant portion of the BLM's appropriated and contributed expenditures (17.5%). Currently, most of what had been payments for presuppression or protection for a specific area, has become payments by the State to the BLM for a specific service, i.e., smokejumpers, radio repair, station maintenance, etc. Finally, it should be pointed out that the State of Alaska's contributions have served to somewhat offset the Bureau's decreased allocation of appropriated funds.

State of Alaska - Suppression

The last column titled "Net State Suppress. Reimburs.-\$" is the net dollars paid to the BLM for actual fire fighting expenditures by BLM on lands for which the State has management responsibility. There are two items which require explanation.

First, the "net" figure is arrived at by taking the total amount of money each agency spent on the other's fires and deducting them to arrive at the difference, or net figure. For instance, if in a given year the BLM spent \$500,000 fighting wildland fires on land for which the State has responsibility, and the State spent \$1,000,000 suppressing fires where the BLM has responsibility the State would bill the Bureau for \$500,000. Reimbursement to either agency is only for the net figure; the two agencies do not cross bill.

A second item requiring explanation is the minus(-) signs in front of the figures. A minus indicates that the State owed BLM for that year, no sign indicates that the BLM owed the State. The reason for using the minus in the first case is that the "Emergency Fund-\$" column includes the expenditures the BLM made on State responsibility lands. The subsequent reimbursement needs to be deducted in order to determine net BLM expenditures. Conversely, the "Emergency Funds-\$" does not have the amount the State spent on BLM responsibility lands and the money reimbursed to the State needs to be added in.

This calculation implies that the total amount in the Emergency Funds column, \$302,419,705, should be reduced by \$11,558,151. This is the amount that, over 27 years, the State has reimbursed the BLM for actual fire fighting expenditures. The relatively narrow range of emergency expenditures between 1979 and 1983 inclusive has been previously discussed. This picture changes if the State suppression reimbursements are applied to these numbers. The figures on

emergency expenditures from Table 1 and their changes are shown below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Emergency Expenditures</u>	<u>Emergency Expend. w/ State Reimburs.</u>
1979	19,357,062	18,557,772
1980	20,727,106	20,632,777
1981	20,180,100	22,114,415
1982	20,370,487	19,732,767
1983	19,803,143	16,940,280

Using the corrections for the State reimbursements the variations over 5 years that were previously \$1,370,044 between the high and low years become \$5,174,135.

One final item worth mentioning in this column is to note that until 1980 the BLM never owed the State of Alaska for suppression services. Between 1981 and 1985, the BLM owed the State twice. This change probably represents the increasing ability of the State of Alaska's Division of Forestry to deliver wildfire suppression services. Ultimately it appears that over the long run the State and BLM should come closer to balancing out suppression reimbursements than they have in the past.

#### Inflation Effects

Dollar figures have been expressed as they are found in the records. It must be recognized that what dollars will buy over time is variable. To deal with this the Department of Commerce publishes the Gross National Product Implicit Price Deflators shown in Table 3. Since the 1982 year was used as the base in Table 3, it was felt appropriate to use a year closer to middle of the period under study (1959-1985). In this case, the year 1973 was chosen as the base year (100). The recalculated deflators are shown on Table 4.

These deflators were applied against the figures in Table 1, and the adjustments for inflation are displayed in Table 5. A more graphic review of the material is presented in Figures 6 and 7. Figure 6 displays "Appropriated Funds-\$" column of Table 5. In comparing it to Figure 3, it can be seen that the patterns of ups and downs are similar. However, the highest year for appropriated expenditures in Figure 3 is 1979, while after inflation adjustments the peak year for appropriated funding in Alaska is in 1964, fifteen years earlier. In terms of "real" dollars, the BLM's support to the Alaska fire program has been trending downward since 1964 to the point of its all time low in 1985.

The situation is somewhat different for the Emergency Funds shown in Table 5 and graphed in Figure 7. Even on the basis of constant 1973 dollars, the early years (1959-1966) represent very low years of emergency expenditures. The 1970 expenditures represent the all time high in Bureau fire expenditures in Alaska. This sum actually represents the money spent on the 1969 fire season, which included the Swanson River (Kenai) Fire. Emergency expenditures exhibit a steady downward trend from 1979 on. This is consistent with some relatively low fire years and the assumption of fire responsibility by the State of Alaska.

### Gross National Product (GNP) Implicit Price Deflators 1982=100

1949 .....	23.5	1968 .....	37.7
1950 .....	23.9	1969 .....	39.8
1951 .....	25.1	1970 .....	42.0
1952 .....	25.5	1971 .....	44.4
1953 .....	25.9	1972 .....	46.5
1954 .....	26.3	1973 .....	49.5
1955 .....	27.2	1974 .....	54.0
1956 .....	28.1	1975 .....	59.3
1957 .....	29.1	1976 .....	63.1
1958 .....	29.7	1977 .....	67.3
1959 .....	30.4	1978 .....	72.2
1960 .....	30.9	1979 .....	78.6
1961 .....	31.2	1980 .....	85.7
1962 .....	31.9	1981 .....	94.0
1963 .....	32.4	1982 .....	100.0
1964 .....	32.9	1983 .....	103.8
1965 .....	33.8	1984 .....	108.1
1966 .....	35.0	1985 .....	111.7
1967 .....	35.9		

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 4

GNP Deflators - 1973 Base Year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Deflator</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Deflator</u>
1959	1.63	1973	1.00
1960	1.60	1974	.92
1961	1.59	1975	.83
1962	1.55	1976	.78
1963	1.53	1977	.74
1964	1.50	1978	.68
1965	1.46	1979	.63
1966	1.41	1980	.58
1967	1.38	1981	.53
1968	1.31	1982	.50
1969	1.24	1983	.48
1970	1.18	1984	.46
1971	1.11	1985	.44
1972	1.06		



ALASKA FIRE STATISTICS 1959-1985  
 ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION BASE YR. 1973

YEAR	APPROPR. FUNDS-\$	EMERGENCY FUNDS-\$	ST. OF ALASKA CONT. TO PRESUPPRESSION-\$	NET STATE SUPPRESS. REIMBURSEMENTS-\$	DEFLATION FACTOR
1959*	1051319	2863962			1.63
1960*	1018198	2366516			1.6
1961*	1364866	1505726	28620	-28620	1.59
1962*	1467199	240608	49368	-49368	1.55
1963*	1509651	1527153	112532	-112532	1.53
1964*	1725750	925004	127159	-44763	1.5
1965*	1550520	554090	152789	-77295	1.46
1966*	1271476	903493	200770	-382895	1.41
1967*	1039140	6843420	204930	-161939	1.38
1968*	1188039	5267333	204360	-2084954	1.31
1969*	985800	12303988	198400	-4147707	1.24
1970*	941057	25136243	188800	-1883993	1.18
1971*	1159296	9049225	160000	-1504955	1.11
1972*	1228845	14250007	169600	-182320	1.06
1973*	1428362	17221726	150720	-239469	1
1974*	1399142	9914800	306982	-441549	0.92
1975*	1402499	12181687	276158	-145700	0.83
1976#	1312630	13386968	603435	-225784	0.78
1977	1125492	20553377	310400	-292961	0.74
1978	934468	11202933	173375	-236807	0.68
1979	1110065	12194949	1398	-503553	0.63
1980	891866	12021721	34039	-54711	0.58
1981	765163	10695453	331218	1025189	0.53
1982	640950	10185244	292216	-336860	0.5
1983	514320	9505509	344430	-1374174	0.48
1984	464370	7356925	245195	-124032	0.46
1985	419796	5381274	180400	884880	0.44
TOTAL	29910279	235539334	5047294	-12726872	

\* Fiscal Year July 1-June 30  
 # Includes transition quarter

Table 5

DOLLARS  
EXPENDED  
(in millions)

## APPROPRIATED FUNDS ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION

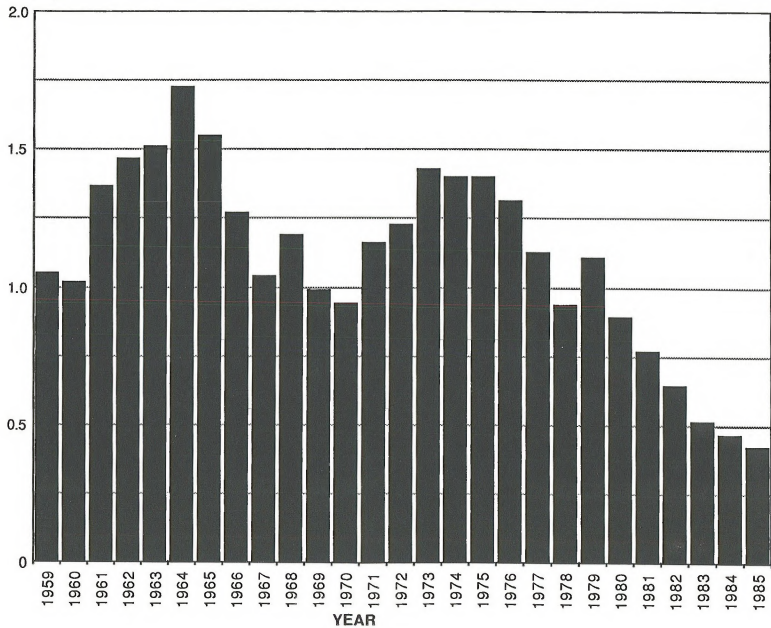


FIGURE 6

EMERGENCY  
DOLLARS  
(In millions)

## EMERGENCY FUNDS ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION

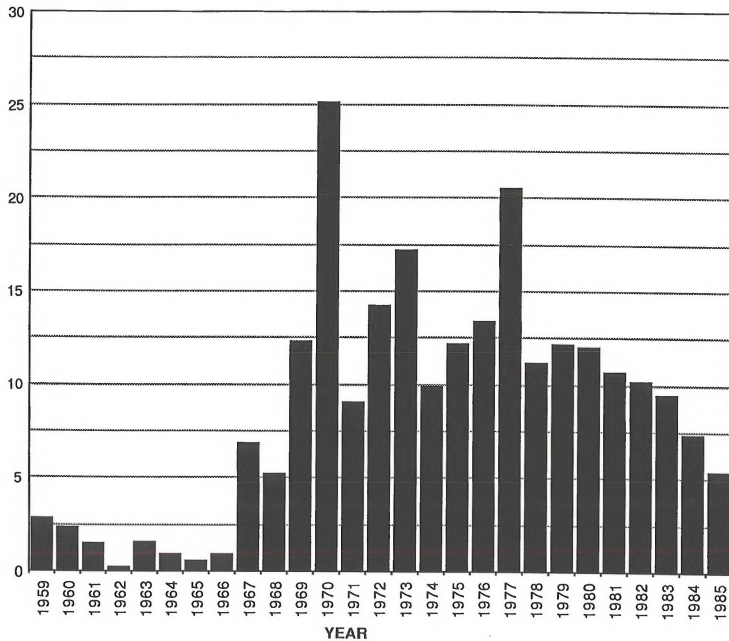


FIGURE 7

5

4

2

2

Conclusion

It can be concluded from Table 1 that between 1959 and 1985 the Bureau of Land Management spent over \$333,000,000 in appropriated and emergency funds in fighting wildland fires in Alaska. The State of Alaska paid the BLM over \$18,000,000 during the same period to protect and suppress wildland fires on State responsibility lands. During the study period study, there were 10,568 fires and false alarms with a total acreage burned in excess of 13,000,000 acres. The current funding trend of the BLM program in Alaska appears to be downward. This decline could be attributed to one or more of the following factors: 1) Increased fire protection and suppression by the State of Alaska, 2) Decreased Bureau of Land Management administered lands in Alaska, 3) Improved interagency fire management planning, 4) A decreased level of fire activity because of weather, 5) BLM internal management initiatives designed to reduce fire expenditures.

It is not the intent of this paper to further explore the reasons for the drop in BLM expenditures.

Glossary

Appropriated Funds - These are regularly appropriated funds used to implement Department and BLM management related to the total fire management program on a year round basis. In this paper, it includes Subactivity codes 4360 and 1270.

Emergency Fire Presuppression Funds - Based on an authority to spend, these funds are used to prepare to suppress fires. This includes hiring and training personnel, placing fire control vehicles and equipment in a state of readiness, and acquiring and managing aircraft. These expenditures are authorized only during certain times of the year. Subactivity codes 4610 and 1510 are in this category.

Reimbursement Funds - These are funds received from other agencies. Groups, or individuals through written agreements or contracts for mutual aid. When such funds are used by BLM personnel, they come under Subactivity code 4960.

Suppression Funds - These funds are again, an authority to spend money to extinguish wildfires and fires burning under an approved management plan where objectives are identified as a reduction in suppression costs and/or improve the safety of fire personnel. The Subactivity codes 4620 and 1511 are fire suppression funds.







### **BLM Mission Statement**

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of the public lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield; a combination of uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural, scientific and cultural values.

### **BLM-Alaska Mission Statement**

In Alaska, the Bureau of Land Management is responsible for carrying out the mandates of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and the Alaska Statehood Act along with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and other federal laws. These duties make cooperative management a vital necessity. BLM-Alaska's success as a public land guardian and resource manager is dependent on its ability to serve the public through mutual understanding. Sustaining a working partnership with the public is a key element of multiple use management, given the special nature of Alaska and its people. To this end, BLM-Alaska:

- \*exists to serve the public
- \*safeguards the land and ensures needed resources are available to future generations
- \*keeps the nations promises of the land to the Natives and the State of Alaska
- \*serves as an information storehouse for the public